

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
**COMMISSION ON CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES**

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**MINUTES**

Full Commission Meeting  
March 2, 2007  
County Administration Center

**Members Present**

Alfredo Aguirre, Mary Baum, JoAnne Bushby, Paula Guerra-Lynch, Mary Harris, Kelly Henwood, Judge Susan Huguenor, Vincent Iaria, Margaret Iwanaga-Penrose, Jo Ann Leone, Sandy McBrayer, Emerald Randolph, Dr. Vivian Reznik, Barbara Ryan, Katherine Smith-Brooks, Daphyne Watson, Robin Wood

**Members Represented**

Renee Bahl (Christine Lafontant), Supv. Greg Cox (Maddy Morris), Carlos Flores (Nan D'Anna), Vincent Iaria (Kim Broderick), Margaret Iwanaga-Penrose (Dr. Sterling Alexander), Sharon Lawrence (Paul Kerstetter), John Sansone (John Philips)

**Visitors Present**

Cheryl Blanchette, Harder & Company; Sarah Brichler, HHSA CMHS; Stevie Gavzelli, First 5 Commission; Michelle Lustig, SDCOE FYS; Mara Madrigal Weiss, SDCOE; Kim Ralston, HHSA SDIB; Laura Spiegel, First 5 Commission

**Staff Present**

Jamie Beam, Kristen Lowrey, Roseann Myers

**1.0 Commencing Action – Huguenor**

- 1.1 Meeting called to order at 2:15 p.m.
- 1.2 Members present introduced themselves, stating their name and affiliation to the Commission.
- 1.3 **Public Comment:** There was no public comment.
- 1.4 **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the January 5, 2007 Commission meeting were adopted unanimously.

**2.0 Chair's Report – Huguenor**

- 2.1 Judge Huguenor welcomed Kelly Henwood, Director of Youth Programs for San Diego Workforce Partnership, the new appointee for Supervisorial District Four.
- 2.2 On January 19, the Executive Committee supported a Board Letter for Independent Living Skills contracts. The funding for these contracts will be a joint procurement with Workforce Partnership to provide employment and job skills training to emancipated foster youth ages 18 to 21.
- 2.3 Also on January 19, the Executive Committee approved the sign off of four Healthy Start grant applications: El Cajon Valley High School, Garfield High School, King/Chavez Public School, and Crawford Educational Complex.

- 2.4 Based on a request from the membership, the Executive Committee developed a template for reviewing letters of support requests for grant applications.
- 2.5 In addition to the input provided by the membership on the Mental Health Community Services and Support Enhancement Plan, the Executive Committee sent a letter of support with comments on unmet needs, evaluation, and definitions of populations to be served to Mental Health Administration. A copy of the letter was emailed to Commission members.

### 3.0 Committee Reports

#### 3.1 Child Abuse Prevention Committee (*Dr. Sterling Alexander reporting*)

- Steering Committee members and Commission staff attended the Child Abuse Training and Technical Assistance Center (CATTA) Child Abuse Prevention Council Roundtable on February 1 in Santa Ana.
- Steering Committee members and Commission staff are scheduled to attend the CATTA Child Abuse Prevention Council Action Planning in Riverside on March 5.
- April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. Blue Ribbons will be distributed by the Commission Office to honor the month.
- Child Abuse Prevention Month event is scheduled for April 20. Registration information will be available later this month. STARS Awards will be presented at this event. The deadline to submit nomination forms to the Commission Office is March 9.
- 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Parenting Conference is scheduled for April 21. Registration information will be available later this month.
- The Parent Education Task Force is developing a survey for parent educators to determine training and networking needs.
- This month marks the beginning of the fifth year of Diversity Schoolhouse.

#### 3.2 Education and FYSA Committee (*Judge Susan Huguenor reporting*)

- Ten Committee members participated in the California Foster Youth Education Summit on January 23. The Committee will work to address the issues identified throughout the year.
- The Committee will serve as the “extended community team” to HHSA East Region for the Casey Breakthrough Series Collaborative on education.

#### 3.3 Fairness and Equity Committee (*Daphyne Watson reporting*)

- Committee members had a conference call with personnel from Ramsey County, Minnesota “Ending Disparities Project” regarding disproportionality strategies used in their county such as community engagement and hiring community consultants.
- A workgroup met to plan focus groups using the Ramsey County Community Engagement model. A focus group is scheduled for March 13 at O’Farrell school with foster parents and kinship caregivers.

#### 3.4 Housing Committee (*Roseann Myers reporting*)

- New funding is available for the THP-Plus Housing Program. HHSA Independent Living Skills (ILS) program released a Request for Information (RFI) for this funding, which resulted in eight proposals for a total of 150 beds. Also included in the funding is an augmentation for 10 additional spaces for the current THP-Plus Program at San Pasqual Academy.
- A Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) has been released for \$150M for housing statewide. \$55M will be available for youth housing, with a larger portion available for capital expenses for new housing sites. These funds are available via Proposition 1C.

### 3.5 Partnership Committee (*Roseann Myers reporting for Walter Philips*)

- The Montgomery Middle School Family Success Center had its grand opening on the evening of February 28. Several elected officials and representatives were present at this event. This Success Center is a result of the North Central region pilot project.

A copy of the Commission Plan of Work for 2007 was provided.

## 4.0 Presentations

**4.1 Governor's Department of Juvenile Justice Proposal:** Vincent Iaria highlighted that beginning on July 1, the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) will begin the process of shifting the juvenile population from state to local facilities and provide resources to support the program and housing to get to a point where DJJ houses only the most serious and violent juvenile offenders. The funding to the counties will be in the form of block grants amounting to \$94,000 per juvenile. This grant takes into account the savings on a sliding scale that would have been sent to DJJ. Until the juveniles are identified, the estimates in the budget have a total of \$53M of new money going to probation departments. DJJ will audit the counties to ensure funds are spent on the identified population. The shift of population is estimated to be 1,338 by June 30, 2008, and will be accomplished in the following combinations of actions: DJJ will stop intake of female offenders and no longer house females, DJJ will stop intake for parole violators with an original non-violent offense, DJJ will stop intake for non-violent juveniles, and DJJ will shift their current population of non-violent juveniles to counties.

**4.2 Safe Crisis Management Training:** Vincent Iaria explained that the Probation Department Institutional Services assessed practices related to interacting with minors when their behavior is negative while in Juvenile Hall. After researching and reviewing a number of programs, the Department chose a program called Safe Crisis Management (SCM).

SCM was developed by Joseph K. Mullen (JKM). SCM has set a new standard for crisis intervention and behavior management on both the state and national level. SCM is committed to the welfare of at-risk youth and to the safe and professional intervention by staff when a minor's behavior is harmful to themselves and others.

SCM has a philosophy that is committed to the welfare and positive development of minors. Staff have to be competent when working with minors and should believe in professional courage: "Doing what's right, even when it is difficult."

The Department has developed a three day training that includes SCM for all sworn staff in the institutional setting. It is believed that through this training, staff will become more competent in interacting with minors on a positive level, instilling not only what is right for staff but also for minors as well as building relationships with minors.

**4.3 Youthful Offender Program:** Vincent Iaria explained that the Youthful Offender Program (YOP) provides new opportunities by using risk assessment scores to identify high-risk male and female offenders, 18 to 25 years old, who significantly contribute to crime in San Diego. The Program focuses on community safety and offender rehabilitation. The YOP provides a collaborative approach to supervising this transitional age group by teaming up with community-based organizations to achieve sobriety and full-time employment and/or schooling while addressing other important crime producing factors

such as criminal thinking and pro-criminal association. Initial outcome measures show that employment increased from 25% of offenders being employed at the time of arrest to over 66% being employed after 6 months of assignment to the unit. Also during that time 82% of the offenders showed an overall decrease in their re-offending risk score.

The following handouts were provided: Youthful Offender Program, Improving Outcomes of Youthful Offenders: Integrating Evidence-Based Practice Into Probation Supervision, and a list of services provided by community partners.

#### **4.4 Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Community Services and Supports (CSS) Update and Planning Process for Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) Funding:**

Alfredo Aguirre explained that the MHSA Enhancement Summary Plan was presented to the Mental Health Board on February 1. The Board supported the MHSA enhancement and expansion items that do not require public review; and supported the 30-day posting of the Mental Health Services Act enhancement and expansion items requiring public review. The 30-day public review period will end on March 3. Commission members may email comments regarding the 30-day public review period to Alfredo by 5:00 p.m. tomorrow.

The MHSA emphasizes that prevention and early intervention are key strategies in transforming California's mental health system. The Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) component focuses on interventions and programs for individuals throughout their lifetime both prior to the onset of a serious emotional or behavioral disorder as well as with the presence of mental illness. The MHSA created the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC), which is responsible for authorizing all MHSA PEI expenses. To fulfill this mandate, the MHSOAC initiated policies for the State Department of Mental Health to assist in guiding the development of PEI County Program Requirements, giving special attention to the needs of children and youth, and stressing the importance of prevention efforts for California's multicultural and multilingual communities. Some of the key areas for the County Plan Requirements include:

- Key community Mental Health Needs
  - Disparities in Access to Mental Health Services
  - Psycho-Social Impact of Trauma
  - At-risk Children, Youth and Young Adult Populations
  - Stigma and Discrimination
  - Suicide Risk
- Priority Age
  - 0-25 Age Group (with County Plans to address all age groups)
- Priority Populations
  - Underserved Cultural Populations
  - Individuals Experiencing Onset of Serious Psychiatric Illness
  - Children/Youth in Stressed Families
  - Trauma-Exposed
  - Children/Youth at Risk for School Failure
  - Children and Youth at Risk of Juvenile Justice Involvement

It is anticipated that the State Department of Mental Health (DMH) will release the PEI guidelines in late spring or early summer. Once these guidelines are released, Mental Health Services staff will host countywide forums to review the guidelines with the community in

mid to late summer. At the same time, community input from councils, the Mental Health Board and stakeholder forums will begin and extend through the end of the year. If on schedule, the PEI Plan will be presented to the Mental Health Board and Board of Supervisors in January 2008. Once approved, it is expected that the Plan will be submitted to the DMH in February 2008. After the DMH has reviewed and approved the Plan, the Project Action Plans for the RFPs will be developed. The competitive procurement process for PEI services is anticipated to begin in early to mid Summer 2008.

The following handouts were provided: MHSA CSS – Narratives, MHSA Prevention and Early Intervention: County and State Level Policy Direction, MHSA-CSS Enhancement Plan, Summary of MHSA Community Input as of 2/27/07, and MHSA Prevention and Early Intervention timeline.

- 4.5 First 5 Commission 2006 Annual Report and Future Direction:** Laura Spiegel explained that today's presentation will provide an overview of the First 5 Commission's achievements over the past year and discuss the year ahead. The vision is that every child in San Diego will enter school ready to learn. To accomplish this vision, the Commission adopted a five-year strategic plan in October 2004, followed by a five-year funding allocation plan in FY 05-06, which designates the resources needed to achieve the strategic plan objectives. The Commission has a 20-year financial plan that secures stability of the initiatives as tobacco tax revenues decline over time. In 2006, Commission activities included health, early learning, parent and family resources, and communities and systems.

The goals for the children's health activity include healthy births, accessible healthcare, and skilled and knowledgeable parents. To accomplish these goals the Commission funded health programs such as: health and developmental services, healthcare access, and oral health education and treatment. The health and developmental services project was introduced in January 2006, with funding of approximately \$5.4M in FY 05-06, to promote early identification and treatment of problems that affect a child's ability to learn. The healthcare access project was launched in February 2004, with an allocation of approximately \$3.5M in FY 05-06, to assist children and families in getting and maintaining health insurance. The oral health education and treatment project commenced in Spring 2005, with approximately \$2M in funding, to improve oral health in young children.

The children's learning and emotional health goals are quality early experiences, healthy emotional development, appropriate cognitive development, and knowledgeable and skilled parents. The Commission funded programs such as Preschool for All, school readiness, CARES (Compensation and Retention Encouraging Stability), and parent development to obtain these goals. The Preschool for All demonstration project was allocated \$30M over five years for a pilot project that will increase the quality of early education programs. The school readiness initiative began in 2002, as part of the statewide effort to improve the transition from early care environments to elementary schools by fostering children's physical, social, emotional and cognitive development. In FY 05-06, this initiative was allocated approximately \$2.4M, which was matched by the State Commission. San Diego CARES was implemented as part of a statewide effort to improve the quality of childcare by providing daycare and preschool teachers with financial incentives to continue their education and care for children. This program was allocated \$16.6M over seven years plus a 20% State match. First 5 for Parents is a parent education project that began in Fall 2006 to assist parents in developing more effective skills, promoting their children's early learning,

and healthy eating and exercise for their young children. Funded with \$9.8M over three years for 10 projects. Intergenerational capacity building was launched in February 2004, with an allocation of \$1.2M in FY 05-06, to use the skills and experiences of seniors to enhance services for young children and their families.

The parent and family resources goal is that families have skills, comprehensive support and resources to promote their children's optimal development and school readiness. To reach this goal the Commission funded programs such as 2-1-1 and Kit for New Parents. The Commission allocated \$898,000 in FY 05-06 funds to assist in launching 2-1-1 San Diego, a new phone system that helps residents find needed services in their area. The Kit for New Parents was produced by the State Commission and is offered free to all new parents. Through the Commission's network, more than 26,000 parents received a Kit in FY 05-06.

The community and systems development goals are for parents to have comprehensive support and resources; for communities to have effective, coordinated, and sustainable service capacity; for all cultures to have access to services; and for policymakers and the public to know the importance of the early years. Examples of funding to meet this goal are an early childhood obesity action plan coordinator and a three-tier system for Preschool for All.

In FY 06-07, the Commission will continue to devote resources to improve the lives of young children. Some of the projects scheduled to begin this fiscal year are the social-emotional health initiative and community leadership training initiative. Because the Commission is committed to making a difference in the lives of young children and their families, it will continue to use focused approaches to serve young children and families, and to strive to increase the number of young children who enter school healthy, happy, and ready to learn.

The following handouts were provided: First 5: The 2006 Year in Review and Look at the Year Ahead PowerPoint handout and the First 5 San Diego 2006 Annual Report.


## **5.0 Announcements**

- 5.1** Chief Iaria announced Probation's Centennial Celebration on Monday, March 5. This event will feature Shay Bilchik and honor Probation employees and community partners. All are invited to attend. Invitations for the event were provided.

## **6.0 Adjournment**

- 6.1** The meeting was adjourned at 3:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Nan D'Anna  
Commission Secretary

*Written by Kristen Lowrey*